

May 2, 2000

DESIREA HOLTON RECEIVES GOLD AWARD

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2000*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishment of one of Colorado's youth, Desirea Holton. Desirea is a member of Senior Girl Scout Troop 81 in Delta, Colorado. On May 20, 2000, ceremonies will take place to honor Ms. Holton's achievement of earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award possible for a Girl Scout to earn. In order to earn the award, a Girl Scout must meet five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. Desirea's project, "Hair Today: Gone Tomorrow," encompasses all of those things. Her project brought community awareness to the issue of juvenile hair loss. Desirea developed an informational brochure, which she distributed to local salons in an effort to increase hair donations. She also organized a day where individuals interested in donating their hair could receive a free haircut and styling.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say congratulations to Desirea Holton on her achievement. Due to Ms. Holton's dedicated service, it is clear that Colorado is a better place.

IN HONOR OF THE ANNUAL BAYONNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Annual Bayonne Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance.

This is not just a day to remember the tragedy of the Holocaust, it is also a day to celebrate the special commitment the Jewish community has to its heritage and the preservation of Jewish identity.

The ceremony will feature speaker Norman Salsitz, a Holocaust survivor himself. He was born in Kolbuszowa, Poland, the youngest of nine children. During the war, he was confined to a ghetto and three labor camps, escaping on several occasions, and eventually commanding a Jewish partisan group in southern Poland. Later, he joined the Polish army and rose to the rank of colonel.

Germans murdered Norman Salsitz's mother and sisters, and their husbands and children. He witnessed the shooting of his father. These tragic events have contributed to his unwavering commitment to the Jewish community and its legacy.

For many years, Norman Salsitz has participated in numerous and diverse Jewish organizations, such as Israeli Bonds, United Jewish Appeal, and Jewish Fighters and Partisans. He is an executive board member of the National Federation of Holocaust Survivors. He

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has authored two books: *Against All Odds: A Tale of Two Survivors*, co-authored by his wife; and *A Jewish Boyhood in Poland: Remembering Kolbuszowa*.

Proclamations will be made by Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr., the honorary chairman of the event. This year's event is dedicated to the memory of Colonel Anthony Podbielski, a longtime and active member of the committee.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance; and I ask that we, too, remember the Holocaust.

HONORING DR. FRANKLIN E. KAMENY AND THE GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2000*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize two Washington, D.C. institutions that have been in the forefront of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered civil rights movement, and that I have the distinct honor and pleasure of representing in this body: the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. (GLAA), the oldest continuously active gay and lesbian rights organization in the United States and its charter member, Dr. Franklin E. Kameny.

Since its founding in April 1971, GLAA has been a respected and persistent advocate in District politics tirelessly asserting equal rights and social equality for lesbians and gay men living in the city. In the last two years, its advocacy with the city government helped reestablish an independent Office of Human Rights and the Citizen Complaint Review Board; implementation of a unique identifier system for reporting cases of HIV/AIDS to help to protect the privacy of people who test positive for HIV; and the establishment of an antiharassment policy by the District of Columbia Public Schools.

On April 27, GLAA held its 29th Anniversary Reception honoring the year 2000 recipients of its Distinguished Service Awards: Steve Block of the American Civil Liberties Union/National Capital Area; Jeffrey Berman of the Public Defender Service; local and international gay activist Barrett L. Brick; Food and Friends; Dr. Patricia Hawkins, Associate Director of the Whitman Walker Clinic; and Jessica Xavier, a local and national transgendered activist. GLAA also celebrated Frank Kameny's 75th Birthday.

Dr. Kameny's résumé reflects the history of the gay and lesbian movement in the District of Columbia. He remains an indefatigable and outspoken gay activist. Dr. Kameny holds a BS in Physics from Queens College and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Astronomy from Harvard University.

In 1957, Dr. Kameny began an 18-year struggle to end the civil service ban on the federal employment of gay men and lesbians that achieved success in 1975 and was recently formalized by President Clinton with Executive Order 13087. In 1961, Dr. Kameny

founded the Mattachine Society of Washington, the first local gay and lesbian organization in the District. The following year, he initiated the ongoing effort to lift the ban on gay men and lesbians in the military.

By 1962, Dr. Kameny had become the nationally recognized authority on security clearances for lesbians and gay men. His efforts resulted in lifting of the absolute ban on gay and lesbian security clearances in 1980, which President Clinton made formal with Executive Order 12968. In 1965, Dr. Kameny organized the first lesbian and gay demonstration at the White House; and a year before the "Stonewall Rebellion" in New York City in 1968, he coined the slogan "Gay Is Good."

In 1971, Dr. Kameny ran for Congress in the District of Columbia, the first openly gay person to seek such an office in the country. His campaign committee became the nucleus of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C. He subsequently helped draft the D.C. Human Rights Law, one of the strongest civil rights laws in the country, which codified gay and lesbian civil rights in the District.

Dr. Kameny's 10 year fight to have homosexuality removed from the American Psychiatric Association's classification as a mental illness succeeded in 1973. He was a founding member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (1973), the Gay Rights National Lobby (1975), which ultimately became the Human Rights Campaign, and the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club (1976).

Dr. Kameny became D.C.'s first openly gay municipal appointee when Mayor Washington appointed him to the Human Rights Commission (1975). He drafted the legislation which repealed the D.C. Sodomy Law in 1993.

Dr. Kameny continues to be a revered and effective activist. He lectures, writes, and testifies on behalf of gay and lesbian issues. He has become the institutional memory of D.C.'s gay and lesbian rights movement.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance and Dr. Franklin E. Kameny.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM LARKIN

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2000*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I honor Dr. William Larkin, who is retiring as superintendent of the Greenfield, Wisconsin School District after 40 years as an educator.

Dr. Larkin began his career as a classroom teacher. Through his hard work, and genuine concern for his students, he became an assistant principal, then junior high school principal, and high school principal. He spent 10 years as assistant superintendent for Milwaukee Public Schools, before becoming superintendent of the Monona Grove School District, and finally superintendent of the Greenfield School District, where he has served for the last 7 years.

But Bill's commitment to education was not confined to the classroom or the superintendent's office. Besides working as an associate

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